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TREATY OF

FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE

AND NAVIGATION

BETWEEN THE UNITED

STATES OF AMERICA

AND THE

ITALIAN REPUBLIC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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APRIL 7, 1947

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Soviet Foreign Relations. Reported to be sick with grippe last week, KHRUSHCHEV remained out of the public eye until January 10 when he traveled to Minsk. His only public action in the foreign relations field was to send a message to Indonesian President SUKARNO in connection with the latter's escape from an assassination attempt. Ambassador THOMPSON's conversation with GROMYKO on January 2 concerning Berlin, and the Soviet December 27 memorandum to the FRG, still have not been mentioned by the Soviet press, although these proved to be newsworthy in the West. MIKOYAN was off in West Africa, apparently to mend Soviet fences. At the Presidium level, SUSLOV and KOSYGIN were the only Soviet officials reported by the press as receiving foreign officials in Moscow.

Within the Western diplomatic corps, interest was diverted by the whereabouts of MOLOTOV, who was variously reported by MFA officials to have left and not to have left for Vienna.

There were no fresh public developments in Soviet-Chinese dispute. A Western newspaperman in Moscow was told by a Soviet source that the Soviet Ambassador had been withdrawn from Peiping and that the Chinese Ambassador here had also left. However, these reports could not be confirmed.

On the "anti-colonial" front, the Soviet press undeviatingly upheld Indonesia's right to secure control of West Irian by any means. But the press was virtually silent on Laotian, Congolese, and Algerian developments. Cuba emerged from the background somewhat, evidently in anticipation of some kind of action regarding Cuba likely to be taken at the OAS meeting scheduled to open in Uruguay on January 22.

2. Berlin/Germany. A January 6 Izvestiya comment concentrated on the inacceptability of the maintenance of the occupation status as a basis for negotiations. The article warned that continued adherence to such a position by the West will only make peaceful resolution of the German problem impossible. In a commentary by Lt. Col. MARKOV, Krasnaya Zvezda on January 11 took the position that Western intelligence agents are abusing the right to enter East Berlin in order to continue their subversive activities against the GDR. Markov also attacked RIAS and charged that more than 40 fascist associations operate in West Berlin.

Comment on MACMILLAN's visit to Bonn was brief and concentrated mainly on the theme that Macmillan went hat-in-hand to Bonn and was rewarded with orders for military hardware. The Soviet press also criticized the purported British endorsement of the "ADENAUER formula" of attempting to determine whether there is a basis for negotiations with the Soviet Union on Berlin instead of pursuing actual negotiations.

For the first time in the Soviet press on January 5, it was reported that US authorities had banned access to West Berlin to the Soviet Commandant and his Deputy. The Soviet press account of the disagreement on this question ridiculed General WATSON for initiating "a comical procedure," and contended that the British and French in Berlin were in disagreement with his policy.

GPO 902667

3. West Irian. An Izvestiya article on January 6 reacted promptly and negatively to Walter LIPPMAN's suggestion that West Irian might be placed under some form of UN trusteeship. The article rejected this flatly, claiming it would violate a resolution of the 15th UNGA calling for the granting of independence to all trust territories. Although there was nothing in the Soviet press which indicated that the USSR would prefer that Indonesia use forceful as against peaceful means in the West Irian controversy, press coverage was emphatic in supporting Indonesia's campaign to obtain control over this territory and in maintaining that Indonesia would be justified in resorting to force if the Netherlands does not yield up West Irian peacefully.

4. Laos. The Soviet press published occasional reports from Laos, ominously alleging that PHOUMI's troops were stirring up military activity, and that they were supported by Thai, Chiang Kai-shek, and South Vietnamese forces, as well as by a US airlift and advisors. These symbols, which have been employed in the past to denote a trend toward military, rather than peaceful, settlement in Laos, were somewhat counter-balanced by publication in the Soviet press of the text of the Gromyko-HOME summons to the three Laotian princes to come to Geneva and reports that all three princes have agreed to come to Geneva.

5. Congo. Soviet press coverage of developments in the Congo was meager over the past week. Items which appeared generally stressed that the colonialist powers were doing everything in their power to block the realization of the Security Council's resolution of November 24, which was aimed at the removal of mercenaries from Katanga. The TASS correspondent in Leopoldville reported the apparently abortive attempt to oust GIZENGA from the chairmanship of the African Solidarity Party on grounds that Gizenga had disqualified himself by accepting the position of Chairman of the LUMUMBA National Party. This particular TASS story reported that a Gizenga supporter, YUMBU, said that Gizenga will remain Chairman of the African Solidarity Party until the Lumumba National Party is finally formed. This task, Yumbu reportedly added, remains one of the main tasks on the path of uniting the nationalist forces of the country.

6. Mikoyan Visit to Guinea. The press coverage of Mikoyan's visit to Guinea included the publication of what appeared to be full texts of the speeches given by Mikoyan and Sekou TOURE at the opening of the Soviet Trade Fair in Conakry on January 6 and the rather lengthy statement which Mikoyan gave to representatives of the Guinean Press Agency and a TASS correspondent prior to his departure for Accra. An average Soviet reader was likely to gather the impression from Mikoyan's speech and statement that the primary purpose of the visit to Conakry was to conduct a diatribe against colonialism and the colonial powers rather than to discuss matters relating to the strengthening of cooperation between Guinea and the Soviet Union, the avowed purpose of the visit. At the same time, it may not have escaped a careful reader that Sekou Toure in his speech on January 6 made pointed references to topics such as the import of revolution, equality, and non-interference, and that Mikoyan in his pre-departure statement appeared to make a special effort to reassure the Guineans on these points.

Although the Soviets announced on January 10 that a new Ambassador, Dmitry DEGTYAR, had been appointed to replace Ambassador SOLOD, no indication was given for the replacement except to say that Solod had been relieved of his duties in view of his transfer to another job.

GPO 902667

7. Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. At a meeting in Moscow on January 8, the Presidium of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee discussed a report covering a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) held in Gaza on December 9-11, 1961. The Soviet Solidarity Committee welcomed the decision taken by the Executive Committee of the AAPSO to call a conference of solidarity of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America in the near future and expressed satisfaction with the results registered by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Fund and the International Committee for Aid to the Congo and Algeria.

It is apparent from the attention given the Soviet Solidarity Committee, which has branches in the union republics, that the Soviets view the organization as a useful instrument for the dissemination of Soviet anti-colonial and anti-Western propaganda and as an avenue for the cultural, economic and political penetration of under-developed areas. Of significance, too, is the indication that the Soviet Solidarity Committee foresees an expanding role for the Committee for Aid to the Congo and Algeria, which is presumably operated under the aegis of the AAPSO. Whether this attitude foreshadows a Soviet decision to direct increased material aid to these sensitive areas remains to be seen.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

8. Leadership. Variously described at the 22nd Party Congress as a "dogmatist", "fractionary", "would-be theoretician of Communism", "foamer at the mouth", "decapitator of the Party", and "mass slaughterer", V. M. Molotov, it appeared on the basis of a tangled skein of rumor, Foreign Ministry Press Department pronouncements, and the resultant on-again, off-again stories of Western correspondents, was ill packing his bags to return to his apartment on Wohllebengasse in Vienna, there to resume his role as Soviet representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Molotov's return to Vienna, if in fact it turns out to be that, was the most striking of a number of intriguing events in Moscow since the turn of the year.

The first was the strange spectacle presented by Marshal K. Ye. VOROSHILOV's unrestrained and unabashed mingling with members of the Party's innermost circle at the Kremlin New Year's Eve reception and his kissing of Khrushchev, Mikoyan, and BREZHNEV (Embassy's A-519, January 5, 1962). Then there was Khrushchev's unlively behavior at the reception, followed by reports that he had caught the grippe. And the rumor that M. A. Suslov was hospitalized with a recurrence of tuberculosis, which was followed on January 9 by a Pravda announcement that he had received a delegation of Polish Communists on January 6.

In restful contrast to their Western colleagues, the editors of Pravda and Izvestiya found nothing to get excited about in the hodgepodge of report and rumor which bubbled around Voroshilov, Molotov, and the illnesses of Presidium members. They did find time and space, however, to publish articles commemorating the 60th anniversary of the birth of I. F. TEVOSYAN, an outstanding Communist industrial leader who died in 1958. Pravda (January 8) linked his name with those of Sergo ORDZHONIKIDZE, S. M. KIROV, and V. I. MEZHLAUK, three old Bolsheviks whose deaths had been caused by STALIN. Pravda also found space to note that Tevosyan had been a Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, although it failed to specify that he had been appointed to this post in 1949 and had held it through MALENKOV's

GPO 00 2667

premiership and well into BULGANIN's. Izvestiya, on the other hand, gave its readers none of this, describing Tevosyan simply as "a talented organizer" of Soviet metallurgy and an Armenian whose services during World War II had been praised on one occasion by Khrushchev.

The articles on Tevosyan were apparently a political demonstration in the peculiar Soviet tradition. Tevosyan's long identification with the group of "technocrats" who went into decline following Malenkov's fall from power, and his own deplacement, following the December 1956 Central Committee plenum, to the post of Ambassador to Japan, were no doubt significant elements in the decision to commemorate his 60th anniversary. Perhaps of even greater interest was the strongly differing treatment accorded him by the two leading Soviet newspapers—the Party organ and the Government organ (Embassy's A-545, January 12).

There was an uncanny recurrence of half-rumors about Malenkov. A senior Yugoslav diplomat "knew for a fact" that he had been in Moscow at the time of the XXII Congress. There was an intangible story that he had "moved" from his post as director of the electric-power station at Ust-Kameogorsk to a new job. And at least one semi-official Soviet knew he was "working" somewhere, but could not say where (Embassy's A-540, January 12).

Notwithstanding all this, an important part of the leadership took to the road again. First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers A. I. Mikoyan left Moscow on January 4 for a trip to Guinea, Ghana, Mali, and Morocco—countries whose governments have long waited in vain for the appearance of Chairman Khrushchev, in answer to long-standing invitations.

Khrushchev himself resumed the agricultural circuit, arriving by train in Minsk on January 10 for a conference of Byelorussian farm workers. In contrast to earlier trips of a similar nature, he seemed, from press reports, to have had strangely little to say for himself during the first two days of his stay in the Byelorussian capital.

G. I. VORONOV and RSFSR Premier D. S. POLYANSKIY, who appear to have primary responsibility for agriculture in the Russian Republic, traveled to Rostov-on-Don for the January 11 opening of a conference of agricultural workers of the Northern Caucasus.

Confronted with this kaleidoscope of events and shadows, observers of the Soviet scene were aware that there was a great deal more to what they were witnessing than met the eye.

Perhaps some sense of this unsettled political atmosphere, as well as the current ferment on the cultural front and the reputation he has earned as a proponent of "liberalism" in literature, contributed to the atmosphere of expectancy surrounding the readings Ilya EHRENBURG gave from the fourth volume of his memoirs on January 6 (Embassy's D-606, January 12). In the event, Ehrenburg said nothing of great moment. He did defend himself against the criticism of the Party-lining novelist KOCHETOV and said that the anti-PASTERNAK attitude of a year and a half ago was "retreating more and more into the background."

GPO 902567

9. "Communism is Peace, Labour, Freedom, Equality, Fraternity and Happiness". Using this formulation extracted from the Third Party Program, the Communist propaganda machine has been pushed into high gear to extol the virtues of the Soviet political system on a scale unprecedented in recent months. Pravda has been devoting entire issues to each of the six concepts enumerated in the slogan above. Already special issues have been published on "Peace" (December 3), "Labor" (December 24), and "Freedom" (January 7). The forthcoming three special issues will undoubtedly constitute as rich a collection of Communist images and euphemisms as the first three.

Against this backdrop, the propaganda drive for the forthcoming USSR Supreme Soviet elections, scheduled for March 18, 1962 (Ukase of December 30, 1961), is just getting under way. The first step, that of constituting the election commissions, must be taken at least 50 days prior to the elections and the composition of the Central Election Commission was announced in Pravda on January 12, 1962. Such commissions exist at all levels, with one commission for each constituent district electing deputies to the Council of the Union and the Council of Nationalities, in addition to joint Council-of-the-Union/Council-of-Nationalities election commissions at the ward level. This entails a lot of "democratic" activity with all of the attendant publicity, nomination speeches, and other formal trappings, which are considered so desirable in the never-ending attempt to convince the people that the Soviet system is the most democratic in the world.

The source of candidates for the election commissions is the same as for candidates seeking the office of Deputy of the Supreme Soviet. The USSR Constitution permits nomination of candidates for election from: The Communist Party (CPSU), the Trade Unions, the Cooperatives, Cultural Organizations, and Youth Organizations. In addition to supervising the mechanics of the election, the election commissions now being constituted must register the candidates finally placed on the ballot. This is the mechanism by means of which prospective candidates are weeded out so that, in the end, there is only one candidate running for each office--a "democratic" refinement not practiced in the "bourgeois democracies."

10. Christmas 1961 (Old Style). Christmas was celebrated in the Russian Orthodox Church on January 7, 1962. The more important services began at midnight on January 6. In general, Moscow congregations were not exceptionally large. Although the main cathedrals were packed, some of the smaller ones were only half full, lending support to the impression that, contrary to some estimates, the Orthodox Church is not benefitting from a revival of religious faith. Percentages of male worshipers among the communicants may have been a little higher on this holiday than on previous occasions (Embassy A-543, January 12). In a survey of six churches, an Embassy observer noted that worshipers were not disturbed or molested. The only arrest noted during the evening seemed to result from a legitimate effort to keep the peace.

As the holiday season approached, the Soviet press, including the central papers Pravda and Izvestiya, as usual provided an increasing volume of anti-religious and atheistic articles to bring the "truth" to those who still cling to the religious "myths." Moskovskaya Pravda, in a special feature story for its readers on Christmas eve, 1961 (Old Style), published a 40-column-inch article entitled "Reason Against Religion."

It is worth noting that, on the occasion of both Christmas eves (December 24, 1961, and January 6, 1962), the English language TASS news service put out innocuous statements for foreign consumption to the effect that "today the faithful are observing Christmas...". The spirit of this Christmas reportage was not, however, reflected in the Soviet domestic press in any way.

11. Julia Khrushcheva - Journalist. For the second time in four months, the by-line of N. S. Khrushchev's granddaughter, Julia KHRUSHCHEVA (Embassy's A-236, September 29, 1961), has appeared in the press. Identified as a "special correspondent of the Novosti Press Agency," she has now written a sentimental article entitled, "One Night in the Year" (Literaturnaya Gazeta, January 4, 1962). The story involves a description of a war-time New Year's eve celebration in 1942 Leningrad. It recalls the heroic stand of that city against the Germans and the role played in it by the workers of the Kirov factory. Journalist Julia's article is replete with a number of high-flown thoughts, such as "...private and personal is my New Year's celebration. Soft, like snow. And it will stay that way."

12. Drunkenness. Drunkenness is officially acknowledged as one of the gravest sociological problems facing the Soviet regime. This week's Soviet press drives home the point in an interesting variety of stories on the demon rum (cf. WEEKA No. 1, January 5, 1962).

(a) Drunks on TV: Evening Moscow (January 6, 1962) carried a letter entitled "Disturbance in the Ether" from an indignant professor, a lover of Bach and Mozart, who protested against the disturbance of a TV "Listeners' Concert of the University of Culture" by "a group of obviously drunken young people attracting attention to themselves. The concert had scarcely begun when noise and drunken cries were heard in the hall..."

(b) Pay-As-You-Sober-Up-Stations: Reacting to criticism that the city budget provided too generously for the care and sobering-up of drunks, the city of Ashkhabad has established "Pay-As-You-Sober-Up-Stations" (Izvestiya, January 10, 1962). The city fathers then established a plan, calling for an income of 33,000 rubles annually derived from payments by drunks for sobering-up services rendered. Izvestiya's correspondent indicates that this budget was based on treating "3,300 people; not less", in order to meet minimum expenses and to show a small profit of 4,900 rubles. The correspondent indignantly protests against setting any such minimum plan goals for drunkenness in Ashkhabad. His moral indignation aside, there appears to be no reason to doubt that the pay-as-you-sober-up-stations will over-fulfill their plan.

(d) Drunks and Auto Accidents: Noting that a lot of drunken drivers are on the road (WEEKA No. 1, January 5, 1962), a major of police, in a letter published by Sovetskaya Rossiya (January 11, 1962), points out that two additional factors in the accident rate are carelessness and drunken pedestrians. He illustrates his point by citing an accident caused by a drunken pedestrian, who crossed the highway in an unsafe place, forcing a driver to set his brakes suddenly. Result: serious damage to two machines and serious injury to two innocent bystanders.

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For the Ambassador:

Boris H. Klosson

Boris H. Klosson
Counselor for Political Affairs

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